

ACT ONEScene 8

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER's living room. It is dominated by a large sofa which nestles between two hideous end tables. An old gramophone lurks in the background.

Doors lead from the living room to the rooms of FRAULEIN KOST and HERR SCHULTZ - also to the bedroom of FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER. A large double door leads outside. A hallway extends offstage, leading to still more rooms.

As the lights come up FRAULEIN KOST is entering through the double door with a GERMAN SAILOR. He pinches her. She screams. And FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER zooms out of her room to accost them.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

That sailor! Out of my house!

FRAULEIN KOST

That sailor - dear lady - is my brother!

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

Out! Out! Out!

(The GERMAN SAILOR exits through the double door)

FRAULEIN KOST

Wait! Wait! How dare you! You think it is easy - finding a sailor? This was only my second one since New Year's. And what is it now? April!

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

Your second? Your second? You think I do not know what goes on here? Sailors - all the time. In - out - in - out! God only knows what the neighbors must think I have here - a battleship?

(Outraged)

Fraulein Kost, I give you warning! One sailor more - I call the police!

FRAULEIN KOST

And if I cannot pay the rent?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

The rent is due each Friday - as always.

FRAULEIN KOST

No sailors. No rent. I move.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

Move?

FRAULEIN KOST

Move!

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

(Upset)

And what am I supposed to do with your room? Out of the blue - she tells me "I move"! Is that gratitude? Only last week I gave you another new mattress!

FRAULEIN KOST

All right! I will leave the end of the week - since you insist.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

I insist? You insist!

FRAULEIN KOST

And what about the sailors?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

The sailors?

(She mulls it over and reaches a decision)

Fraulein Kost - if you wish to continue living here, do not let me catch you bringing in any more sailors? You understand?

FRAULEIN KOST

(Haughtily)

Very well. So it is the same as always.

(She goes into her room and closes the door)